



EPA Region 6 Environmental Justice Report

JULY 2018 – SEPTEMBER 2019

"The Region 6 Vision is that all persons, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture or income, are protected from unacceptable levels of environmental pollution and hazards and are given the opportunity to meaningfully participate in environmental decisions and processes that may affect their health or community. Environmental Justice is a principle that permeates all that we do in Region 6."

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Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Arkansas

Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment

Local Foods, Local Places – Helena, Arkansas: EPA Region 6 Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment (OCTEA) staff participated in the Local Foods, Local Places technical assistance workshop for Helena, AR, on September 6-7, 2018. The city of Helena plans to launch a successful farmers market and events center to improve food access and attract economic development. Partners and supporters for the workshop included the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension and multiple community, state, and federal agencies. Next steps include completing an action plan that outlines activities, resources, and timeframes to move forward with implementation. Local Foods, Local Places helps cities and towns across the country protect the environment and human health by engaging with local partners to reinvest in existing neighborhoods using local food systems. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Air and Radiation Division

Children's Environmental Health Program

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

Georgia-Pacific Crossett, AR Consent Decree Lodged: On Friday, December 14, 2018, the Department of Justice, on behalf of EPA, filed a complaint and lodged a consent decree regarding Georgia Pacific Chemicals LLC and Georgia-Pacific Consumer Operations LLC ("Settling Defendants"). The complaint and consent decree address and resolve Settling Defendants' liability under Sections 113(b)(2) and 112(r)(1) of the Clean Air Act ("CAA"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 7413(b)(2) and 7412(r)(1), for alleged violations of the New Source Performance Standards, National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, and the Chemical and Accident Prevention Provisions for Air Programs at their chemical and paper/pulp facilities located in Crossett, Arkansas. Under the proposed settlement, Settling Defendants have agreed to injunctive relief requiring correction of the alleged violations and bringing their facilities into full compliance upon entry of the proposed Consent Decree and pursuant to the deadlines set therein. Settling Defendants have also agreed to pay a penalty of \$600,000, implement three Supplemental Environmental Projects valued at \$1.8 million, and implement a mitigation project valued at \$2.9 million. Co-Plaintiff Arkansas Department of Quality (ADEQ)

will receive half of the civil penalty (\$300,000) but asserts no claims for injunctive relief.
Contact: Sarah Frey, 214-665-6499.

Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division

Superfund and Emergency Management Division

Water Division

Louisiana

Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment

Mary Queen of Vietnam – Advanced Post Award Monitoring/Site Visit: Staff from the EPA Region 6 Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment (OCTEA) and staff from the EPA Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) conducted an advanced post award monitoring (APAM) review and site visit with the 2016 Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) grant recipient, Mary Queen of Vietnam on Tuesday, August 7, 2018. The APAM is conducted to ensure the use of the EPA assistance funds are in accordance with the project workplan agreed to by EPA and the recipient. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Visit with the Louisiana Department of Quality (LDEQ) on the EPA R6 EJ Program and Discussion on the State's Best Practices: On September 17, 2018, OCTEA staff, Arturo Blanco, Gloria Vaughn and Charlotte Runnels visited LDEQ and met with LDEQ staff, Dr. Chuck Brown, Denise Bennett, Bijan Sharafkhani, Herman Robinson, Elliott Vega, Roger Gingles, and Lourdes Iturralde. OCTEA staff provided information regarding the positive feedback received on LDEQ's presentation at the recent EJ Forum and possibility of planning the next forum. An overview of the EJ Collaborative Plan was presented, in which LDEQ agreed to have input and to enhance communication by agreeing to participate on regularly scheduled update calls with OCTEA. LDEQ provided a brief overview on what they feel are EJ communities and impacted communities. In addition, they highlighted several successes (St. James, Sasol, St. Rose, Attainment for 5 Criteria Pollutants, MOU's with Southern University) and other areas where they are still working on addressing concerns (Denka, Alexandria). LDEQ also stressed how important it is to communicate risks accurately and manage expectations. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

EJ Tour of Disadvantaged Communities along the Industrial Corridor in Louisiana: September 26-27, 2018, OCTEA staff attended an EJ Tour of disadvantaged communities along the industrial corridor in Louisiana, which was hosted by General Russel Honore with the Green Army, and Mary Lee Orr and Wilma Subra with the Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN). EPA staff participated by listening and capturing key points of concerns from participants at each stop on the tour. Tour stops were in St. James Parish - Burton Street Community, Reserve, LA - Concerned Citizens of St. John, Colfax, LA - The Rock Community and Alexandria, and LA - Concerned Citizens of Alexandria/Pineville. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

EPA Conference Call with LDEQ – Listening Tour: On October 24, 2018, OCTEA staff hosted a conference call with Denise Bennett, Deputy Secretary of LDEQ, to discuss and share notes captured from the Listening Tour hosted by Gen. Russell Honore, Mary Lee Orr and Wilma Subra and held along the Louisiana industrial corridor (St. James Parish, Reserve, LA, Colfax, LA and Alexandria, LA). Summary notes have been shared with Region 6 Programs as well. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Louisiana Semi-Annual EJ Update Call: On November 15, 2018, OCTEA staff hosted the Louisiana Semi-Annual EJ Update Conference Call with EJ partners in Louisiana. The purpose of the call was to share information and engage in meaningful conversation with our partners in Louisiana and to work collaboratively to address environmental challenges. OCTEA shared information on OEJ's New Structure and informed them of the Environmental Justice Community Revitalization Council (EJCRC) – EJ training webinars for States. Highlights of the recent National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) meeting, an update of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related projects in Louisiana, and an overview of EJ and Cooperative Federalism projects in Region 6 (Collaborative Strategy and Working with State Partners) was shared. Participants on the call were given an opportunity to voice their environmental concerns. As follow-up, OCTEA shared documents related to OEJ's new structure, the EJCRC Webinar Trainings, and three opportunities: 1) EPA's Small Grant (EJSG) Solicitation; 2) EPA's Presidential Youth Award (PEYA); and 3) information on the upcoming NEJAC Public Teleconference was provided to our partners. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Air and Radiation Division

Louisiana Disaster Recovery Technical Support for 3 Human Health and Service Projects: On November 6, Region 6 facilitated the "Green and Healthy Homes and Buildings Scooping" meeting in support of the disaster recovery effort in West Monroe, Louisiana, during which two Indoor Environments training opportunities planned for 2019 in West Monroe were shared. As a result, the Human Health and Services Response Support Function (RSF 3) drafted three project proposals for IAQ (Asthma) focused activities in 2019. Contact: Mark Berry, 214-665-3183.

Children's Environmental Health Program

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division

Superfund and Emergency Management Division

Agriculture Street Landfill Site - Inspection and Sampling: On October 20, 2018, the EPA and Jacobs Engineering completed an outdoor/indoor home inspection and air monitor effort. Preliminary results did not indicate any levels of concern from volatile organic compounds in the home and no methane gas was detected. Data from the Summa Canisters will be available in approximately one week to further confirm the preliminary data. Contact: Ursula Lennox, 214-665-6743.

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Devil's Swamp Lake Superfund Site, Baton Rouge, LA – Proposed Plan:

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Water Division

Regional Sustainability Environmental Sciences Research (RESES) Workshop Ouachita Ecosystem Benefits and Flood Impacts for Monroe/W. Monroe LA: On November 8, 2018, EPA Region 6 and EPA Office of Research and Development will host a second RESES workshop. The second workshop is a continuation of the focused dialogue on the Ouachita River and Ecosystem Services and Benefits. The RESES project it to connect community efforts of management of the river and addressing flooding issues to that of ecosystem services and benefits and community wellbeing. The workshop will build upon results from Workshop #1 where key values and concerns of Ouachita Parish and the Cities of Monroe and West Monroe were identified to connect to specific levee river management, river pool depth/navigation maintenance, stormwater management, and community resiliency to flooding projects. In addition, Scott Template from LDEQ in Baton Rouge and Christopher Sims from the Corps of Engineers in New Orleans will attend the workshop to learn more and to partner with EPA on final outcomes from the RESES project for the Parish. The week will also have a DOE feasibility study for solar to power their drinking water plant and may become a future Drinking Water SRF Project. Contact: Anisa Pjetrovic, 214-665-6446.

New Mexico

Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment

Environmental Justice (EJ) Collaborative Problem-Solving Grantee Workplan

Discussion Meeting: Amigos Bravos met with Debra Tellez to discuss issues which needed clarification in preparation of the Final workplan. The Rio Fernando de Taos (RFDT) Revitalization Collaborative is a partnership to revitalize the RFDT Corridor by improving water quality and ecological function, restoring acequia systems and connecting people to the river and its watershed. The \$120,000, two-year effort will be funded by the Urban Waters Program. Contact: Debra Tellez, 915-533-7273.

Local Foods Local Places Technical Assistance Workshop, Silver City, NM August 1-2, 2018: Staff from EPA Headquarters (HQ)Office of Community Revitalization led the two-day workshop and served as facilitators. Utilizing a self-assessment, draft workshop goals were developed to include increasing local food production and harvesting in Grant County to create a reliable supply for local buyers; include underserved community members in local food system planning to expand economic opportunities and food access for all; and strengthen the existing farmers market to reinforce downtown Silver City as a food destination. Silver City has a lot of good things going on with a Food Policy Council, farmers market, food coop, restaurants, commercial kitchen, with little connection between them. The workshop included a tour with steering committee members and federal partners, a public evening session to identify local values, vision and goals. Attendees to the community meeting and workshop included residents, community garden volunteers, town council members, academia, New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) Brownfield staff, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Rural Development staff, El Paso EPA Border Staff, USDA HQ staff, and local small business owners. A total of 45 attendees were present at the public evening workshop and approximately 25 attendees were present during the final portion of the workshop to clarify and prioritize the goals into an action plan. A draft action plan will be developed and shared with the community. Three additional post workshops will follow in late September and October to identify potential funding and resources to help with implementation and discuss the community's initial steps forward. Contact: Contact: Debra Tellez, 915-533-7273.

Visit with NMED Leadership and EJ Grantee: September 5-6, 2018, EPA Region 6 Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment (OCTEA) staff, Gloria Vaughn and Debra

Tellez, met with NMED leadership and staff Secretary Tongate, Deputy Secretary J.C. Borrego, Jennifer Hower and Kathryn Becker to discuss the June EJ Forum and to share the news that NMED's presentation was one of the most well received presentations. OCTEA staff also confirmed EPA's use of information on the merger of small water systems as a best practice and that EPA will be sharing it with others. The draft EJ Collaborative Plan and opportunities for collaboration was also discussed. EPA staff then met with the TEWA Women's United a non-profit agency in Espanola NM to tour their Healing Oasis. EPA staff toured a thriving garden with over 200 varieties of medicinal or companion plants which began with a \$20,000 2015 Small EJ Grant. The barren slope with erosion problems was transformed with the use of swales and berms to capture and harvest rainwater. TEWA just completed Stage 4 and will create a seed library at local library which is adjacent to the site. They have been approached by a local elementary to create something similar but on school grounds. EPA staff also conducted a windshield tour of two prospective communities who submitted letters of interest in the EPA Greening Americas Communities (i.e. City of Santa Fe, NM and County of Bernalillo, NM: Mountain View Community). Contacts: Debra Tellez, 915-533-7273; and Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Air and Radiation Division

Children's Environmental Health Program

Albuquerque, New Mexico Healthy Homes Training: On August 13, 2018, the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit PEHSU presented the second in the series of Healthy Homes Training events in Albuquerque, New Mexico; the first event on July 18 was in Las Cruces, NM. The course was designed for environmental health professionals, community health workers, school health workers, housing advocates, code enforcement inspectors, and other public health front line workers. There was a strong emphasis on lead poisoning prevention. Contact: Paula Selzer, 214-665-6663.

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division

Safe Drinking Water Safety and Lead Poisoning Workshop and Lead-Based Paint Inspections, Las Cruces, New Mexico: On August 3, 2018, the Region participated in the Safe Drinking Water Safety and Lead Poisoning Workshop in Las Cruces, New Mexico, speaking on the lead-based paint Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule. The

presentation included common issues found during RRP work practice inspections. Chuck Barnes, 214-665-6535.

Superfund and Emergency Management Division

Water Division

War on Lead – Drinking Water Sessions Delivered by Region 6 El Paso Office in Las Cruces: Staff from the EPA R6 Drinking Water Section presented at the "Drinking Water Safety and Lead Poison Prevention Workshop" in Las Cruces, New Mexico on August 3, 2018. This workshop was provided through a collaborative effort of EPA Region 6, Texas Tech University in El Paso, and the Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU). The workshop focused on educating school districts, child care facilities, policy makers, and other community health organizations about the health impacts of lead on children and the importance of testing. The workshop covered EPA's Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Program Rules, which allow for the safe handling and disposal of existing lead-based paint in older homes. The workshop also made available a network of resources to encourage action on assessing drinking water safety. The Drinking Water Section presented multiple sessions on the "Lead and Copper Rule," the "EPA 3Ts Guidance for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools," and the "EPA Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act." The Act established the definition of "lead free" and prohibits the use of any pipe, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings or fixtures, solder, and flux, after 1986 in public water systems or in a residential or non-residential facility providing water for human consumption, that is not lead free. EPA's participation at this workshop reached about 50 professionals directly, with far-reaching impacts to children in their professional care. Contact: Miguel Moreno, 214-665-7273.

Oklahoma

Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment

State and Local Partnership-Building Visits – Oklahoma: EPA Region 6 Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment (OCTEA) conducted partnership-building visits with staff from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) and two local non-profit groups on September 19-20, 2018. Discussion topics focused on opportunities for State, EPA, and community collaborations. The visit with ODEQ included staff from the Environmental Complaints and Local Services Division. The two non-profits visited were the Urban League of Oklahoma City and The ARC Foundation. Both are previous EJ Small Grant recipients. The visits were planned as part of EPA's emphasis on cooperative federalism and the important role of states and other partners in the work that EPA does regarding communities and the environment. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Meeting with the MetCares Foundation: On August 15, 2019, Environmental Justice (EJ) staff from OCTEA met with staff from the MetCares Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma to discuss their community outreach efforts related to EJ issues in the Tulsa area. The meeting focused on Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN) training, EJ outreach best practices, and publicly available EPA research and database tools. Discussions are ongoing as the foundation begins working with community leaders to identify EJ priority areas of concern. Contact: Omari Burrell, 214-665-3162.

Air and Radiation Division

Children's Environmental Health Program

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division

Superfund and Emergency Management Division

Tar Creek Voluntary Relocation Meeting, Miami, OK: On July 31, 2016, EPA met with the family currently residing at the Tar Creek smelter property in Ottawa County, OK, to discuss voluntary relocation of the family's property and the process to implement the voluntary relocation. The Tar Creek smelter property is contaminated with high lead levels in the soils, the family home and the domestic water supply well. A one-year-old child and an elderly

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gentleman both living on the property have elevated blood lead levels. The investigation and remediation of the property will be extensive and lengthy; therefore, EPA is pursuing voluntary relocation. Voluntary relocation is part of the Tar Creek Operable Unit 4 remedy selected in the 2008 Record of Decision. EPA is working with the Quapaw Tribe to fund a cooperative agreement to implement the buyout. The family was receptive to EPA's plan to implement the voluntary relocation and expressed appreciation for the EPA and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality's actions. Contact: Casey Luckett, 214-665-7393.

Goodrich Asbestos Site, Miami, OK: EPA initiated an Emergency Response Removal action on Thursday, May 9, 2019. Verbal approval for this action was given by the Superfund Division Director. EPA began arrangements to safely remove 19,000 cubic yards of asbestos-containing debris at the site. During the week of June 3-7, 2019, EPA began removal work involving excavation and off-site disposal of asbestos contaminated debris. On June 6, 2019, EPA is hosted a community meeting at the Miami Civic Center. The goal for the meeting was to provide the community with information on the results of the asbestos assessment and the plan to clean-up the debris piles at the site.

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On July 8, 2019, the EPA cleanup team mobilized to the site after a short break that began July 2, 2019. Approximately 20,000 tons of demolition debris contaminated with asbestos is in the process of being excavated and transported to an approved landfill in Missouri. To date, approximately 6,100 tons have been removed. Contact: Mike McAteer, 214-665-7157.

Water Division

Texas

Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment

Regional Administrator meeting with Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s): On October 25, 2018, EPA R6 Regional Administrator (RA), Ann Idsal, RA chief of staff, and staff from the Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment (OCTEA) met with Houston area Environmental Justice (EJ) advocacy group t.e.j.a.s. The meeting focused on emergency preparedness and chemical security, public air quality data access, and R6/state partner EJ involvement in the Houston area. Contact: Omari Burrell, 214-665-3162.

Intercontinental Terminals Corporation (ITC) Deer Park Facility Fire: On March 19, 2019, t.e.j.a.s' Deidre Arellano, on behalf of Juan Parras, met with OCTEA staff and relayed public health exposure concerns regarding the fire at the Intercontinental Terminals Corporation's (ITC) Deer Park facility. Mrs. Arellano indicated that t.e.j.a.s was working well through a liaison in Harris County, but is concerned about data gaps in some of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) monitors. OCTEA staff gave her the website link to access the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) data and she welcomed the information. Mrs. Arellano also made a request on behalf of Juan Parras to set up a meeting with the RA at a mutually convenient time and location (Dallas or Houston). Juan Parras wants to share work he is doing with cooperation from the agencies. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

EJ and Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN) Training: OCTEA staff provided training via webinar to a 4th year medical student at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso. The presentation included an overview of the environmental justice program, defined environmental justice and why it is 's important, a discussion on Executive Order 12892 and the role of the EPA. Video stories from the community were shared. Training was also provided on the use of EJSCREEN. The participant was informed that EJSCREEN could be used as a preliminary step when considering EJ for areas that may be candidates for additional consideration or analysis or outreach as EPA developed programs and activities that may affect communities. It was also shared that it is a public tool that can be used by anyone to look at demographics and environmental indicators in a defined area. A demonstration on how to use the tool was conducted and the participant

indicated that he could see a use for the tool in gathering information about the area where he would be practicing medicine. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Community Workshop - Emergency Preparedness & Communication for Colonias in El Paso Area: On July 24, 2019, EPA Region 6 Border, EJ and Environmental Education Programs hosted an emergency preparedness workshop for Colonias in the El Paso, TX Area. The goal of the workshop was to improve access to emergency preparedness and communication assistance for EJ communities, civic, faith-based and small organizations and strengthen community-based resilience networks. The target audience included: Colonia leaders and members, tribal leaders and members, nonprofits, and health, civic and faith organizations serving Colonia residents in the El Paso area. Acting Regional Administrator, David Gray, provided opening remarks for the event. Several federal, state, and local agencies partnered with EPA Region 6 for the workshop including: TCEQ, City of San Elizario, City of Socorro, El Paso Office of Emergency Management, Red Cross, El Paso Health Department, Rio Grande Council of Governments, University of Texas El Paso (UTEP), Univision Channel 26 media, and others. Contacts: Paula Flores-Gregg, 214-665-8123; and Maria Sisneros, 915-533-7273.

El Paso County Judge and Rural Mayors Meeting & Isleta Del Sur Visit: On September 18, 2019, OCTEA meet with El Paso County Judge, Ricardo A. Samaniego, El Paso County Rural Mayors and Isleta Del Sur Tribal representatives to share ideas for continuation that emerged from the Emergency Preparedness Workshop for Colonias and Tribal Communities held earlier this year. EPA provided information about funding opportunities that could be connected to the work that is needed and seek an agreement on the path forward through local leadership. Contact: Paula Flores-Gregg, 214-665-8123.

Air and Radiation Division

Children's Environmental Health Program

Meeting with City of Dallas Code Compliance Department on Children's Environmental Health: On July 9, Region 6 met with Mr. Bob Curry, Code Compliance Manager for the City of Dallas to discuss ways city code can support children's environmental health and lead poisoning prevention. Contact: Paula Selzer, 214-665-6663.

Children's Environmental Health Symposium, Dallas, Texas: On September 13 and 14, the Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Symposium was held in Dallas, Texas. Agenda

topics included lead poisoning prevention, asthma triggers, exposures during pregnancy, childhood cancer and other CEH issues. One hundred thirty people registered to attend the event. Contact: Paula Selzer, 214-665-6663.

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

Intercontinental Terminals Company Deer Park Texas Incident: On Saturday, March 23, 2019, EPA Region 6 issued an Administrative Order to Intercontinental Terminals Company LLC (ITC) pursuant to Section 311(c), (e), and (m) of the Clean Water Act. The Order directed ITC to comply with a Statement of Work designed to address the discharge of certain hazardous substances into Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou, also known as the Houston Ship Channel. The release occurred after wastewater contents containing hazardous substances breached ITC's tank farm secondary containment after days of firefighting efforts resulting from a fire that began on March 17, 2019. Contact: Edwin Quinones, 214-665-8035.

Laboratory Services and Applied Science Division

3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools: The Houston Environmental Laboratory is providing analytical services for the 3Ts (Training, Testing, Telling) for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in School's Project. It is estimated that the project will consist of around 1,000 samples being collected from drinking water fountains at 85 schools for lead analysis. To date, 180 sample containers have been sent to 24 schools for the collection of samples with additional containers expected to be sent to schools during 2019. The Houston Lab has received a total of 177 drinking water samples (22 of them being re-samples) for lead analysis from 24 schools, and of those, has reported data for all 177 samples from 24 schools. Contact: Beverly Monday, 281-983-2201.

Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division

Brownfields Tools for Building Resilient Communities Workshop: The workshop was held at the Deluxe Theater in the Fifth Ward neighborhood, Houston, TX on July 19, 2018. The goal of the workshop was to inform the community about Brownfield properties and how to fund successful redevelopment through different available resources. Over 70 attendees participated in workshop. For more information about the workshop (i.e., overview, handouts, brochures, presentations) please log on to [HYPERLINK "<https://www.ksutab.org/education/workshops>"]. Contact: Anthony Talton, 214-665-7205.

Lead-Based Paint Inspection - Child Care Facility, Dallas, Texas: On August 10, 2018 in response to a citizen complaint, the Region conducted a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) lead-based paint inspection at a home child care facility in Dallas, Texas. The inspection revealed that work subject to lead-based paint requirements was underway at the home child care facility. Children were present. On-Site sampling confirmed the presence of lead in paint chips collected at the site. Contact: Chuck Barnes, 214-665-6535.

Ennis, Texas Adds Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Regulation to Building Permit: On October 26, Ennis, Texas reported to the Region that it added a statement on the RRP Rule to its building permits, requiring contractors to be EPA certified for work on pre-1978 residences and other child occupied facilities. Contact: Douglas Cornell, 214-665-6486.

Lead Dust Hazard Rule Media Event, Houston, TX.: On June 21, 2019, at the request of the U.S EPA Office of Public Affairs and in coordination with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Texas Department of State Health Service, and City of Houston Health Department, EPA Region 6 hosted a media event to echo the EPA Administrator's announcement of the Lead Dust Hazards Rule going final. The event was held at a recently abated residence in Houston. The lead paint abatement occurred at the home under a HUD grant to the City of Houston's Health Department. Contact: Mikeal Adams, 214-665-6711.

Superfund and Emergency Management Division

Donna Reservoir and Canal System Superfund Site, Record of Decision: On October 1, 2018, EPA issued the Record of Decision for the site. The selected remedy, among other actions, includes the removal of sediments contaminated with Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) and fish which have bioaccumulated PCBs. EPA plans long-term monitoring of fish tissue to determine if remediation goals are reached. The selected remedy will also include community outreach to inform the public of the contaminated fish. Contact: Rafael Casanova, 214-665-7437.

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Wood Industries Removal Action: On October 19, 2018, EPA completed the removal of the two large piles of cracked battery carcasses at the site in San Antonio, TX. The Wood Industries site was a former plastic recycler that inappropriately excepted thousands of tons of battery carcasses, and then could not deal with the batteries as plastic because of the lead contamination and remaining lead plates. The lead, with concentration exceeding 15 percent, threatened the nearby San Antonio River, adjacent residents and the environment. Contact: Matthew Loesel, 214-665-8544.

Lane Plating Works Inc. Superfund Site, Dallas, Texas - Community Meeting: On November 13, 2018, the EPA Region 6 Office hosted a community meeting in Dallas, Texas at the Highland Hills Branch Library. The purpose of the community meeting was to provide a Site update on the Lane Plating history, which was then be followed by a brief question and answer session focused on the next steps for the site. Contact: Stephen Pereira, 214-665-3137.

Lane Plating Works Superfund Site - Field Work: On May 6, 2019, field work is scheduled to begin for Phase one of the Remedial Investigation. During the first week, a reconnaissance crew will mark sample locations and clear brush to gain access when needed. The drilling subcontractor will clear soil boring locations and monitoring well locations with ground penetrating radar. Sample collection and monitoring well installation will begin the week of May 13, 2019 and continue through the week of May 20 if necessary. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will observe sampling on May 15-16, 2019. Contact: Kenneth Shewmake, 214-665-3198.

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Water Division

Craft-Turney Water Supply Corporation, Jacksonville, Texas: The do not use order was lifted on Oct. 19, 2018, for the remaining area (original 11 connections) served by the Craft-Turney Water Supply Corp. based on sample results from additional samples collected from the limited area of the system on October 16th. An evaluation of the results for these samples indicated that though the chlorothalonil is still present at low levels in this area, the levels detected are well below the health-based comparison value. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Region staff made calls to inform the residents of the 11 impacted homes, as well as the lumber mill staff, to let them know that while there is a detectable level of the chemical in this part of the system, the "do not use" order is being lifted, and to set up a time to meet face-to-face to discuss the sample results in more detail so there is a clear understanding of what is going on. Several meetings have been set up, and voice messages were left for three residents. The water system will continue to conduct increased flushing in this area of the system to further reduce the presence of the Chlorothalonil, and the Region will collect additional samples on a periodic basis to monitor for the presence of this chemical. Due to the nature of the chemical and the plumbing of some parts of the system, it is anticipated that there will continue to be detectable levels in the system for quite some time, the residents still have access to bottled water. The TCEQ continues to conduct an investigation of this incident. Contact: James Brown, 214-665-3175.

Drinking Water Presentations at the Texas Rural Water Association Conference: On July 9, 2019, two members of the EPA Region 6 Drinking Water Section presented at breakout sessions of the Texas Rural Water Association's 2019 Water Utility Management Conference in Galveston, Texas on July 9-10, 2019. The EPA presentations included the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Rules such as the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule as it relates to source sampling and the Lead and Copper Rule as it relates to EPA's 3Ts School Sampling Guidance. The conference was geared towards water utility managers and covered a variety of drinking water courses for ensuring oversight of water system compliance and sustainability. Contact: Mark McCasland, 214-665-8088; and Loribeth Tanner 214-665-8153.

Region Wide Activities

Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment

Community Involvement Training (CIT) Program: EPA Region 6 Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment (OCTEA) staff attended the CIT Program on July 18-19, 2018 in Kansas City, MO. The CIT Program brings together people from EPA and the Agency's partners and stakeholders who plan and implement community involvement, partnership, stewardship, outreach, and education programs. The program featured a plenary session with guest speakers; an All-Hands session with a special emphasis on clean up and reuse; engaging and interactive training sessions; and networking opportunities. Contact: Omari Burrell, 214-665-3162.

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council's (NEJAC) Meeting: OCTEA management attended the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council's (NEJAC) meeting in Boston, Massachusetts on August 14-16, 2018. A featured component of the meeting was a public meeting where impacted EJ communities and advocates could provide testimony and recommendations to the Council. Three Region 6 constituents provided testimony and/or recommendations to the NEJAC which included support for scientific integrity; opposition to roll back of the Chemical Disaster Rule; opposition to the proposed Real ID Act that would require presenting a state ID to make public comments; and opposition to proposed changes to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which would shorten the review period. Testimony was also provided regarding industry lead home buyouts in Mossville, LA and the number of hazardous pollutants that the Manchester community near Houston was exposed to because of Hurricane Harvey. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Cooperating Agency Meeting: On September 10, 2018, OCTEA staff participated in the Cooperating Agency meeting for the Port Arthur Louisiana Connector Projects to discuss OCTEA's comments on the Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Proposed Project impacts the states of Louisiana and Texas. Contact: Agatha Benjamin, 214-665-7292.

EPA Region 6 - Semi Annual Environmental Justice Update Call with Partners: On October 23, 2018, OCTEA hosted the EPA Region 6 - Semi-Annual Environmental Justice Update Conference Call. The purpose of the call was to communicate with communities, state partners and Tribes in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, to share

overarching environmental information and to engage in meaningful conversation on issues of interest in the Region. Topics presented on the call were: Office of EJ Programs new structure; EJ Community Revitalization Council - EJ Training Webinars for States; NEJAC meeting overview; EJ and Cooperative Federalism - EJ Collaborative Strategy and Working with State Partners. Partners shared environmental concerns they were experiencing in their communities. Matthew Tejada (OEJ), Charles Lee (OEJ) and Ricard Moore were presenters on the call. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

EJ Integration - Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN) Training Standard Operation Procedure (SOP): On March 29, 2019, the OCTEA EJSCREEN Coordinator/Contact conducted a meeting with OCTEA management. During the meeting feedback was obtained on the EJSCREEN Training SOP and management expectations for the screening and mapping tool implementation within Region 6. The EJSCREEN tool aims to further integrate and implement community environmental considerations within EPA Programs. The development of the EJSCREEN Training SOP in conjunction with the EPA Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) and the National EJSCREEN Steering Committee is underway. Contact: Agatha Benjamin, 214-665-7292.

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) Meeting: On April 30 - May 3, 2019, Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment staff attended the NEJAC meeting in Bethesda, MD. The meeting focused on several topics including EPA program offices providing updates on their efforts to integrate environmental justice into their programs, and the discussion and deliberation of a charge to provide recommendations on the reuse and revitalization of Superfund and other contaminated sites. Representatives at the April 30, 2019 public meeting spoke on the behalf of citizens of Mossville, Louisiana, and read a statement from Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (TEJAS) expressing a need for actions to be taken to address cumulative impacts and the ongoing threats of another environmental disaster. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

EJ Staff Participates in Children's Environmental Health Symposium: On June 11, 2019, staff from the Environmental Justice team participated in a panel discussion on "Environmental Justice and Social Determinants of Health", sponsored by EPA and Texas Tech at El Paso Health Sciences Center. The Children's Environmental Health Symposium provided important information about environmental impacts on children's health. Physicians, mid-level providers, registered nurses, social workers, public health practitioners, community health workers, policy

makers, academics, and others in the community were informed about the critical links between the environment and health. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Gulf of Mexico Program Meets with OCTEA: Members of the Gulf of Mexico program office visited the Region on September 13, 2019 to discuss working on collaborative efforts to positively impact the MS, LA, and TX gulf area along with other areas in the Gulf of Mexico watershed. We are looking to work with them on emergency preparedness for disasters and what happens next. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Environmental Justice (EJ) and Tribal Analyses-Rule of Law and Process: OCTEA conducted EJ and Tribal evaluations of various federally funded projects in accordance with the EPA Strategic Goals under the Rule of Law and Process. OCTEA analyses evaluated the implementation of Executive Orders 12989 and 13175. The process includes identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. This process also provides opportunities to participate in the decision-making process, and consultation and collaboration with tribal officials on federally funded or permitted construction projects provided for OCTEA's review. As of September 2019, OCTEA has received, analyzed and provided EJ and Tribal analyses and recommendations on over 57 Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), and environmental letters/document requests. These projects, if constructed, could affect over 300 communities and tribes in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arkansas. Contact: Agatha Benjamin, 214-665-7292.

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Air and Radiation Division

Children's Environmental Health Program

Children's Environmental Health Webinar Presentation: On July 11, 2018, Region 6 and 9 staff co-presented during an Office of Research and Development (ORD) webinar on Children's Environmental Health (CEH) initiatives on the US-Mexico border from 2014 thru 2018. The presentation covered the symposia in 2015 and 2016, Healthy Homes training, vector-borne illness training and the activities of the CEH grantees. Contact: Paula Selzer, 214-665-6663.

Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Symposium Highlights: The Children's Environmental Health Symposium was held June 10-11, 2019 in New Orleans, LA. The outcomes from the event were among the most successful of all the CEH Symposia held in the

past several years. More than 80 participants attended receiving professional CE credits in sessions on lead poisoning prevention, EJ, and other CEH topics. Ninety-five Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools kits were distributed, including 40 to the LA Departments of Health and Environment for their upcoming trainings to schools' personnel, three participants signed up for the AQI Flag program, and EPA provided scholarships to two Tribal representatives. New relationships were established between the EPA CEH program and state government representatives. Acting RA David Gray provided opening remarks and promoted the event to New Mexico Sec. of the Environment. Contact has already been initiated to plan the next symposium in New Mexico in 2020. Contact: Paula Selzer, 214-665-6663.

Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) Receives Funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to Resume Asthma Programming: TDSHS received funding from CDC that will allow the state to reinstate the Texas Asthma Control Program (TACP), effective September 1, 2019. Program activities will include reestablishing the Texas Asthma Control Collaborative, developing a statewide strategic plan, and building local/regional capacity to address adult and childhood asthma in high burden areas. The TACP will also build upon the work of the current Childhood Asthma Surveillance and Control Project, which looks at the impact of Hurricane Harvey on childhood asthma prevalence and complications in affected areas. This is the first time in several years that the state has received CDC funding. The EPA R6 Children's Health Advisor has offered to meet with TDSHS to coordinate and support program activities addressing childhood asthma, re-establishing a robust partnership from previous years. Contact: Paula Selzer, 214-665-6663.

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division

New " Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Handbook for Agricultural Employers"

Shared: On August 28, 2018, Region 6 sent the State Lead Agencies and Cooperative Extension Contacts the new "WPS Handbook for Agricultural Employers." It summarizes how to comply with the EPA's revised WPS for workers who harvest crops on farms, forests, nurseries and greenhouses. The document was produced by the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative of Davis, California, with funding from EPA. Contact: Gregory Weiler, 214-665- 7564.

Region 6 Lead-based Paint Program State/Tribal Meeting, Dallas, TX: The 2018 annual meeting was held on Tuesday September 18, 2018 with representatives of Lead-based paint

programs from Region 6 States and Tribal partners at the Regional office. Eleven guests attended from the Cherokee Nation, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas and four online listeners from Louisiana and New Mexico. Six members of the EPA staff gave presentations. Every state and tribal program gave updates on this past year's activities and discussions were held on future goals and concerns. Contact: Paula Selzer, 214-665-6663.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and EPA Meeting, September 23, 2019: EPA Region 6 hosted the HUD Region VI Environmental Officers to a meet and greet meeting on September 23, 2019. EPA Region 6 programs represented at meeting included: Brownfield; Superfund; Environmental Justice; Lead-based Paint for Residences; Air Monitoring; and Urban Waters. HUD staff requested a copy of the sign-in sheet and EPA Region 6 organization chart, post re-alignment. Additionally, HUD staff expressed interest in following up with Air Programs to discuss potential Memorandum of Agreement to streamline State environmental agency review process regarding Maintenance and Non-attainment areas impacted by disasters required to release recovery funding. HUD staff also invited Environmental Justice staff to speak at future HUD staff training events. Contact: Karen Peycke, 214-665-2733.

Superfund and Emergency Management Division

Water Division

Region 6 Lead in Schools 3T Testing Program to be Featured in National Story Map: EPA Region 6's Tribal Lead in Schools Sampling Program is featured in the EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water's online story map titled, "Leaders in Reducing Lead in Drinking Water." An interactive map will highlight the areas where Region 6 has conducted tribal school and childcare facility lead testing as well as a summary of the work. Drinking Water staff collaborated with Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water staff to feature the efforts of the Region and the Tribes to protect children's health.

The story map is located here: [HYPERLINK

"<https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=989f006a15f14256ad8bdfd837016453>"]. Contact: Lori Tanner, 214-665-8153.

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